

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 730
By Norris

A RESOLUTION to commend William L. "Bill" Ray for his honorable and astute service as Chairman of the Collierville Chamber of Commerce.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, William L. "Bill" Ray of Collierville is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as Chairman of the Collierville Chamber of Commerce in 2002 and 2003, Mr. Ray distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, during Bill Ray's illustrious tenure as Chairman of the Collierville Chamber of Commerce, Collierville was recognized by *Money* magazine as the eighth best place to live in the eastern United States among cities with populations of less than 100,000; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his distinguished tenure with the Collierville Chamber, Mr. Ray has rendered valuable service as a board member of numerous nonprofit and community service organizations in the greater Memphis area; and

WHEREAS, he is on the Board of Directors for the Memphis Area Chamber of Commerce and previously served that Chamber as Vice Chairman for Economic Development; he is a past board member of the Collierville Industrial Development Board and is past Chairman of the Mid-South Minority Business Council; and

WHEREAS, Bill Ray presently serves with distinction on the Board of the National Civil Rights Museum, United Way of the Mid-South and Memphis in May; he was honored with the 2003 Leadership Award from Volunteer Memphis, Corporate Volunteer Council; and

WHEREAS, a native of Memphis, he is also a Rotarian Paul Harris Fellow and a member of the Memphis Rotary Club; and

WHEREAS, in the professional realm, Bill Ray has enjoyed a thirty-five year career with BellSouth; since 1998, he has served as Assistant Vice President of External Affairs for BellSouth's West and East Tennessee operations; in this position, he is the spokesman and principal representative for BellSouth in the greater Memphis area; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ray's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Bill Ray is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Bill Ray is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife, the former Nancy Coppola, and their six children; and

WHEREAS, Bill Ray is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State", and should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend William L. "Bill" Ray for his honorable and astute service as Chairman of the Collierville Chamber of Commerce and salute his unswerving commitment to making Collierville, Shelby County, and the greater Memphis area even better places to live.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.